

THE BEACON



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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**NOTE: 2005 ODP/DHS
Grant Materials Now
Available on the NEMA
Website, [http://
www.nebema.org](http://www.nebema.org)**

**JANUARY
2005**



FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR...

January 2005

TO: Emergency Management Directors/Coordinators

FROM: Al Berndt

RE: 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program

The next round of ODP/Department of Homeland Security funding is gearing up, and activity at the agency is increasing daily. The 2005 program is evolving off the 2004 version, meaning that the grants will once again be awarded on a competitive basis. All projects under this year's program will also be required to support the state strategy that was written in 2004. Each application will need to demonstrate how the project will enhance comprehensive programs that emphasize training and exercising.



Adding to the requirements for 2005 projects is Presidential Homeland Security Directive 5. With this directive, the National Incident Management System, or NIMS, will become the order of business for state emergency management activities. All entities are required to incorporate NIMS in 2005 as standard procedure.

As things stand now, we expect to have our funding applications approved by the first of February, 2005. During the month of February we will be looking at project submissions and making funding determinations. First responders have the opportunity to get in some early work now before the clock starts running on project requests. They should be getting together now to assess their needs and begin to develop plans, so that the always-short submission period does not catch them by surprise.

Even more than with the 2004 grants, the 2005 program will emphasize comprehensive, well-thought-out programs that work together. We are looking for a much more integrated process this year. With that in mind, we are asking that all government entities within a jurisdiction have signed off on any projects submitted. This will ensure that all interests are represented when the programs are formulated.

N.E.M.A. personnel were involved in meetings with ODP during the first two weeks of December, getting a closer look at the structure behind the grant program. As we get information about timelines and requirements, we will be posting those and passing them along to all local jurisdictions. A little bit of advance work will make the process easier when crunch time comes, but don't overdo it. After all, it is the holiday season, and all of us at N.E.M.A. wish you the happiest of holidays.

Local emergency managers should be initiating the following actions at this time. Pre-planning and work will assist in making the application process smoother when it opens.

1. Re-establish working groups for the grant application process and review state strategy.
2. Inclusion of all jurisdictions and first responders within your county or region.
3. Lay the ground work through education and outreach for jurisdictional support resolutions.
4. Review authorized equipment lists at <http://www.rkb.mipt.org>. You will need to register with a password to access the site.
5. Review your training and exercising needs to support your program and start building a budget.
6. Review your current grants and make sure all your benchmarks are up to date.
7. Review the grant program guidelines via the links below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Berndt".

2005 State Homeland Security Program	2005 Emergency Management Performance Grants	2005 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program	2005 Urban Areas Security Initiative	2005 Metropolitan Medical Response System	2005 Citizen Corps Program
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On the cover...

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION RECEIVES NEW TURBINE ROTOR

At 9:00 a.m. Dec. 29, the #1 low-pressure turbine rotor was moved into the turbine staging area at Cooper. The rotor arrived at Cooper a little after sundown on Dec. 28. For safety reasons, the truck parked overnight next to the security checkpoint until it was light enough to move it into the laydown area. The rotor weighs 147.4 tons — 294,800 pounds — and is just over 28 feet long. More turbine components are enroute from the seaport at Houston, but soon both rotors will be safely ensconced in the turbine building.

(Story and photos courtesy of Nebraska Public Power District.)



NEW FACES AT N.E.M.A.

Watch for bios in the February Beacon



Kent Studnicka
Exercise Training Officer



Nikki Weber
Exercise Training Officer



Lynn Marshall
Federal Grants Manager



Michael Loftis
Radiological Systems Manager



Phyllis Rathjen
Accountant I

NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN ROLLED OUT

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY TOM RIDGE ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF NEW PLAN

WASHINGTON - The U. S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with federal departments and agencies, state, local and tribal officials, private sector and national and international associations, today announced completion of the National Response Plan.

"The National Response Plan embodies our nation's commitment to the concept of one team, one goal — a safer and more secure America," said Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge. "Completion of the National Response Plan has been one of my department's highest priorities, and this achievement is a bold step forward in bringing unity in our response to disasters and terrorist threats and attacks."

The National Response Plan now establishes a unified and standardized approach within the United States for protecting citizens and managing homeland security incidents. All federal departments and agencies that may be required to assist or support during a national incident will use this Plan, whether from threats or acts of terrorism, major natural disasters, or man-made emergencies. The National Response Plan standardizes federal incident response actions by integrating existing and formerly disparate processes. The Plan uses the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to establish standardized training, organization, and communications procedures for multi-jurisdictional interaction and clearly identifies authority and leadership responsibilities. The Plan also provides a comprehensive framework for private and non-profit institutions to plan and integrate their own preparedness and response activities, nationally and within their own communities.

"With the National Response Plan our nation and its federal, state, local, and tribal response communities now have a comprehensive, all-hazards tool for domestic incident management across the spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery," said Ridge. "The complex and emerging threats of the 21st century demand this synchronized and coordinated plan in order to adequately protect our nation and its citizens."

The National Response Plan was developed by teams of experts from federal departments and agencies, state, local, and tribal officials, incident response and private sector communities from around the nation. Ridge said, "We brought together the best of the best in our nation's incident management and first responder communities for a singular but critical national endeavor, and I am honored to recognize their achievement in completing this landmark Plan and making America safer."

The National Response Plan fulfills a requirement in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 and provides a core operational plan for all national incident management. When fully implemented, it will supersede the Initial National Response Plan (INRP), the Federal Response Plan (FRP), the U. S. Government Interagency Domestic Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan (CONPLAN), and the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP).

The National Response Plan and the supporting National Incident Management System establish incident management processes to:

- Improve coordination and integration between federal, state, local, tribal, regional, private sector, and non-governmental organization partners;
- Integrate the federal response to catastrophic events;
- Improve incident management communications and increase cross-jurisdictional coordination and situational awareness;
- Improve federal to federal interaction and emergency support;
- Maximize use and employment of incident management resources; and
- Facilitate emergency mutual aid and federal emergency support to state, local, and tribal governments.

The National Response Plan further recognizes the potential magnitude of threats from weapons of mass destruction and severe natural disasters by adoption of a new term, the *Incident of National Significance*. An incident of national significance is described as an incident with high impact requiring an extensive and well-coordinated response by federal, state, local, tribal, and nongovernmental authorities to save lives, minimize damage, and provide the basis for long-term community and economic recovery.

To get more information about the National Response Plan

- First responders and incident management authorities may call 1-800-368-6498 [8 am to 7 pm EST Weekdays].
- Interested citizens may view and download a PDF copy of the National Response Plan online at <http://www.dhs.gov/nationalresponseplan>.
- Information on FEMA National Response Plan training courses is available through links at the above website.